

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9-16 as indicated below.

Please add claims 17-24 which correspond to originally filed claims 1-8 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps~~ A computer program product having a computer readable medium having computer program executable code recorded thereon for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, said method steps comprising: the computer program product comprising the programming instructions for:

evaluating supplier metrics for customer interest categories to provide numerical values for a software product requirement;

computing partial scores for the customer interest categories by weighting and summing the numerical values; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from the partial scores.

Claim 10 (currently amended) ~~The program storage device~~ computer program product of claim 9, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 11 (currently amended) ~~The program storage device~~ computer program product of claim 9, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting

of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The ~~program storage device~~ computer program product of claim 9, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero partial scores.

Claim 13 (currently amended) ~~A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps~~ A computer program product having a computer readable medium having computer program executable code recorded thereon for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, said ~~method steps comprising:~~ the computer program product comprising the programming instructions for:

forming an N by M matrix A of numerical values of supplier metrics for customer interest categories of a software product requirement, where N is a number of supplier metrics and M is a number of customer interest categories;

multiplying the matrix A by an M by N matrix of numerical weights W, to form the M by M matrix $P=WA$, to provide partial scores; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from diagonal elements of the matrix P.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The ~~program storage device~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The ~~program storage device~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The ~~program-storage device~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero diagonal elements of P.

Claim 17 (new) A method for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, comprising the steps of:

evaluating supplier metrics for customer interest categories to provide numerical values for a software product requirement;

computing partial scores for the customer interest categories by weighting and summing the numerical values; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from the partial scores by a processor.

Claim 18 (new) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 19 (new) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 20 (new) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero partial scores.

Claim 21 (new) A method for determining numerical scores suitable for use in ranking software product requirements, comprising the steps of:

forming an N by M matrix A of numerical values of supplier metrics for customer interest categories of a software product requirement, where N is a number of supplier metrics and M is a number of customer interest categories;

multiplying the matrix A by an M by N matrix of numerical weights W, to form the M by M matrix $P=WA$, to provide partial scores; and

determining an overall score for the software product requirement from diagonal elements of the matrix P by a processor.

Claim 22 (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the customer interest categories are selected from the set consisting of capability, usability, performance, reliability, interoperability, maintainability, documentation, and serviceability.

Claim 23 (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the supplier metrics are selected from the set consisting of market penetration, priority as determined by a customer, revenue potential, and state of technology advancement.

Claim 24 (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of determining includes a step of averaging non-zero diagonal elements of P.